

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/534,436

Applicant(s)

TAKAMORI ET AL.

Examiner

MICHAEL P. FERGUSON

Art Unit

3679

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 14 April 2008 amendment, 14 May 2008 interview.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 02/06/08
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20080514.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas Schorer on May 14, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, in line 1, after "rotational supporting mechanism" deleted "to support" and replaced with --supporting--.

In claim 1, in line 8, after "rotating eccentrically" inserted --about a fixed rotation axis--.

In claim 1, in line 9, before "corresponding to" deleted "cam having a portion" and replaced with --cam having a peripheral cam surface having a recessed portion--.

In claim 1, in line 10, after "position" deleted "with maximum eccentricity on a cam surface and a portion" and replaced with --comprising a maximum eccentricity of the cam surface at a maximum radius from the axis, and a recessed portion--.

In claim 1, in lines 11-12, after "another position" deleted "with minimum eccentricity on the cam surface" and replaced with --comprising a

minimum eccentricity of the cam surface at a minimum radius from the axis--.

In claim 1, in line 13, after "other through" deleted "an" and replaced with --the--.

In claim 1, in line 17, after "open position when" deleted "in the closed position," and replaced with --the cover is in the closed position, wherein the pressing means applies a spring biased pressing load to the eccentric cam in the pressing direction and applies a pressing force to prevent the eccentric cam from rotating as the cover rotates between the closed position and the open position; --.

In claim 1, in line 19, after "wherein" deleted "a" and replaced with --the--.

In claim 1, in line 19, before "force to prevent" deleted "a" and replaced with --the pressing--.

In claim 1, in line 22, before "portion" inserted --recessed--.

In claim 1, in line 24, after "side of the" inserted --recessed--.

In claim 1, in line 25, before "force to prevent" inserted --pressing--.

In claim 1, in line 27, after "means engages the" deleted "position" and replaced with --recess portion--.

In claim 7, in line 5, before "to axially" deleted "of superposition" and replaced with --rotation--.

In claim 9, in line 4, after "the plurality" inserted --of--.

In claim 11, in line 4, after "pressing means in a" deleted "width" and replaced with --widthwise--.

Art Unit: 3679

In claim 12, in line 4, before "axis portion" deleted "of" and replaced with --on--.

In claim 14, in line 2, after "the plurality" inserted --of--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 1, Godston et al. (US 7,231,188) disclose the claimed rotational supporting mechanism with the exception of the eccentric cam having a peripheral cam surface having a recessed portion corresponding to the closed position at one rotational position comprising a maximum eccentricity of the cam surface at a maximum radius from the axis, and a recessed portion corresponding to the open position at another position comprising a minimum eccentricity of the cam surface at a minimum radius from the axis, the positions being 180 degrees opposite to each other through the axis of the eccentric cam; wherein the pressing load applied to the eccentric cam and the pressing force to prevent the eccentric cam from rotating are increased to stop rotational movement of the eccentric cam when the pressing means engages the recessed portion corresponding to the closed position on the cam surface, wherein the pressing load applied to the eccentric cam is reduced as the pressing means approaches a side of the recessed portion corresponding to the open position, and the pressing force to prevent the eccentric cam from rotating is increased to stop the rotational movement of the eccentric cam when the pressing means engages the recessed portion corresponding to the open position.

There is no teaching or suggestion, absent the applicants' own disclosure, for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the

rotational supporting mechanism disclosed by Godston et al. to have the above mentioned elemental features. Furthermore, such modifications would yield unexpected and unpredictable results.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL P. FERGUSON whose telephone number is (571)272-7081. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30am-3:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571)272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3679

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MPF
05/14/08

/Michael P. Ferguson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679